

PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia Department of Transportation Accepting Applications for 2015 REBC Grant Program

ATLANTA—The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) announces a call for new applications for the 2015 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grant program (formerly known as the GATEway Grant program). The mission of the REBC Grant program is to provide funding for enhancement and beautification projects along Georgia's roadsides.

Since 2008, the Georgia DOT has awarded 126 grants totaling more than \$5 million dollars for the grant program to governments and civic groups around the state. The grant program uses revenue from contributory value fees paid by outdoor advertising companies to the Georgia DOT for vegetation removal in front of outdoor advertising signs. Funds from the grants are allocated towards purchasing and installing plant material along state routes throughout the state.

Any organization, local government, or state agency may apply for grants (maximum \$50,000) for landscape enhancement of the state right-of-way that involves the local community and displays the right-of-way in an attractive manner promoting further pride in Georgia. Awarded grant funds may be used for landscape plant material, sod, topsoil, mulch and labor costs associated with the approved items. The REBC encourages the use of Georgia Grown materials for projects.

"The REBC Grant Program is a great opportunity for local organizations and governments to show pride in their communities by beautifying the right-of-way along State Routes," said Georgia DOT Landscape Architect Manager Bill Wright.

The REBC will review the applications and make their award recommendations to the Georgia DOT Commissioner. The REBC is comprised of representatives from various organizations and agencies appointed by the Governor. Those include the Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia, Sierra Club, Garden Club of Georgia, Georgia Wildlife Federation, Georgia Conservancy, UGA College of Environment and Design, House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairpersons and the Georgia DOT Deputy Commissioner.

New grant applications, legal forms, and instructions can be obtained at the REBC Grant program website: www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Funding/REBC. For additional questions about the grant program, e-mail landscape@dot.ga.gov or call 404.631.1399.

The deadline for the 2015 application submission is Monday, November 16, 2015. Please mail all of the required, completed forms to the Georgia DOT – Office of Maintenance, Landscape Architecture, One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 10th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308

All applicants will be notified by mail with the results of the awards, and the REBC webpage will be updated with a list of grant recipients. Awards are anticipated to be announced in the spring of 2016.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepthoftrans>).

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